

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJ: AUGUST 8 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. TIME (AUGUST 14) PUBLISHED DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
STROBE TALBOTT'S REPORT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO GENEVA WHERE
HE OBSERVED PERMANENT SALT DELEGATIONS AT WORK. AMBASSADOR
EARLE, SUMMING UP EXPERIENCE OF NEGOTIATING WITH SOVIETS,
WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT'S FREQUENTLY TEDIOUS AND
FRUSTRATING. IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE IS ITS REWARD. IT
GOES SLOWLY PARTLY BECAUSE CHIPS ARE SO LARGE -- ALTHOUGH

I FIND IT'S MORE LIKE CHESS THAN POKER BECAUSE OF COMPLEX INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ISSUES. OBVIOUSLY WE'RE NEGOTIATING ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF TABLE FROM SOVIETS, BUT WE'RE IN COMMON ENDEAVOR. IT'S NOT RACE WHICH ONE WILL WIN AND OTHER WILL LOSE. IT'S MORE LIKE TWO CLIMBERS TRYING TO GET TO SUMMIT AT SAME TIME." TALBOTT NOTED THAT U.S. SALT TEAM FREQUENTLY IS AUGMENTED BY VISITING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE DESIGNATED "ADVISERS" TO U.S. DELEGATION AND PERMITTED TO SIT IN ON MEETINGS. HE QUOTED ONE SOVIET NEGOTIATOR AS SAYING, "WE HAVE SUSTAINED AN INVASION OF YOUR LEGISLATORS, AND, AS YOU KNOW, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN INVASIONS." ASKED WHY THERE ARE NO SIMILAR VISITATIONS TO

GENEVA BY MEMBERS OF SOVIET PARLIAMENT, SOVIET NEGOTIATOR REMARKED SARCASTICALLY, "PERHAPS OUR SUPREME SOVIET HAS MORE CONFIDENCE IN US THAN YOUR CONGRESS HAS IN YOUR DELEGATION." TALBOTT SAID SOVIETS UNDERSTAND CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO ENLIST CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR SALT TREATY.

2. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED LAST NIGHT TO DELETE FUNDS FOR ANOTHER NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER AS IT WORKED TOWARD PASSAGE OF 119.3 BILLION DOLLAR DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL DESCRIBED AS LARGEST MONEY MEASURE EVER PUT BEFORE CONGRESS. VOTE OF 218 TO 156 REJECTED AMENDMENT TO DELETE 2.1 BILLION DOLLARS UNCLASSIFIED

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IN CONSTRUCTION FUNDS THAT HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN BILL BY HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. VOTE KEPT ALIVE PLAN TO ADD FIFTH NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER TO FLEET IN 1980S. PROPONENTS OF NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIERS ARGUED THAT THEY WERE NEEDED TO OFFSET GROWING SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH, TIMES SAID. OPPONENTS OF MORE NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIERS ARGUED THAT THEY WERE "SITTING DUCKS" IN AN AGE OF NUCLEAR MISSILES. ROBERT KAYLOR OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID ADMINISTRATION DID NOT WANT AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER THIS YEAR AND HAD PLANNED SMALLER, CONVENTIONALLY POWERED CARRIER NEXT YEAR TO KEEP FLEET OF 12 CARRIERS UNTIL END OF CENTURY. BUT BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE PUT BIG NUCLEAR CARRIER IN THEIR MILITARY AUTHORIZATION BILLS, KAYLOR SAID. CHRISTOPHER

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